

Thomas Pinckney to Andrew Jackson, February 26, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

THOMAS PINCKNEY TO JACKSON.

Fort Hawkins, February 26, 1814

Sir , Your Letter of [16th (?)] and 17th February were received yesterday. I am not acquainted with the situation of the three Islands on the Coosa, but I presume it is as low down the river as the navigation will admit; at that point therefore it will certainly be right to entrench a fort, and if you bring down to it a considerable quantity of provision, your operations will be thereby greatly facilitated; but if the distance thence to the Okfuskee Settlements should exceed forty miles; I would recommend your establishing an intermediate post to which, while you are proceeding against the Enemy, Waggon or Pack Horses, whereof you may have consumed the loads on your march to that intermediate spot, may go back to the Depôt at the three Islands, and return again with an additional supply, in which case, if want of provision or any casualty should compel you to retreat, you will find supplies so much sooner. you will have the comfort of a place of security for your wounded, and you will not have the mortification of giving up so much territory.

Since the return of General Floyd from the nation Col: Milton with 300 Men has maintained his station at Fort Hull within 15 miles of the settlements on the Tallipoosa, and if we were not possessed of that, and the chain of Posts leading to it, he must have fallen back at least to the Chatahouchie. Your Plan of a simultaneous movement by Col: McGee with the Choctaws and Chickasaws on the Black warrior, and securing the Kahaba with your mounted men is a judicious arrangement; and I entirely approve of your completely

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routing the Indians at the Ocfuskee settlements and destroying their Towns before you proceed lower down in the Fork. I understand the position they have taken is strong; you will therefore no doubt endeavor to draw them from it by feint attacks and retreats, or by passing it as if proceeding down the River, while the main body is concealed in the rear; or that you will use any manoeuvre which will suggest itself to you to prevent them from reaping the advantage of their situation; and if they cannot be enticed from it, you will when you attack them in it, alarm them at points where you do not intend to make your real attack to draw their attention from the spot where you propose to bend your principal force. I am assured, Sir, that any thing I can suggest to you on this subject is superfluous: I only recall circumstances of this kind to your recollection because I know the Ardor of your Troops unless directed by your prudence, would in similar cases expose them to difficulties which though their courage would surmount might occasion a greater expense of blood than necessary; which I should be the more desirous to spare because though the necessity for it is inevitable, I feel the same reluctance in opposing our fellow Citizens to these savages as, if I were a Gamester, I should feel in staking dollars against cents.

General Floyd arrived here with the Georgia Militia yesterday. I have not heard of the North Carolinians having left their rendezvous at Salisbury though I presume they must be on their route: I have sent an Assistant Adjutant General with funds to meet and accelerate their movements, but I have no hope of any of them reaching Fort Hull before the middle of March, and until they shall arrive Col: Milton will be constrained to act on the defensive; only manoeuvring in such a manner as may keep the Enemy in his neighbourhood on the defensive. I have the honor to be very respectfully

Sir Your Most Obedient Servant.